

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (Currently amended):** A high frequency
2 heating apparatus for heating a thing to be heated
3 comprising:
4 a high frequency generating portion;
5 a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be
6 heated;
7 a steam generating portion for generating steam in
8 the heating chamber located in the lower back portion of
9 the heating chamber, ~~and,~~
10 a partition plate which serves to mount the thing to
11 be heated thereon and is provided to be upward removable
12 apart from a bottom face of the heating chamber at a
13 predetermined interval, thereby dividing a space in the
14 heating chamber[[,]];
15 a steam pipe; and
16 a steam duct located within the heating chamber for
17 introducing generated steam into the steam pipe,
18 wherein at least one of a high frequency and steam
19 generating portion is supplied to the heating chamber,
20 wherein the steam is supplied into an upper space

21 positioned above the partition plate.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

1 **Claim 3 (Previously presented):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a gap is
3 provided between a peripheral edge of the partition plate
4 and a side wall of the heating chamber, and the steam
5 generated in the steam generating portion passes through a
6 side wall of the heating chamber and is guided to the
7 upper space of the heating chamber through the gap.

1 **Claim 4 (Original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the partition
3 plate has a through hole on a peripheral part, and the
4 steam generated in the steam generating portion is guided
5 to the upper space of the heating chamber via the through
6 hole.

1 **Claim 5 (Original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition
3 plate includes a high frequency heating member.

1 **Claim 6 (Original):** The high frequency heating

2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition
3 plate includes a high frequency shielding unit.

1 **Claim 7 (Original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the high frequency
3 shielding unit includes a metal plate.

1 **Claim 8 (Original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising
3 preheating means for raising an atmospheric temperature in
4 the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 9 (Original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating
3 means includes an upper heater provided in an upper part
4 of the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 10 (Original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating
3 means includes a high frequency heating member provided on
4 the partition plate.

1 **Claim 11 (Currently amended):** A high frequency
2 heating apparatus for heating a thing to be heated,

3 comprising:

4 a high frequency generating portion;

5 a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be
6 heated;

7 a steam generation portion for generating steam in
8 the heating chamber; and,

9 a steam delivery means for guiding the generated
10 steam from inside the heating chamber to outside the
11 heating chamber through a steam delivery path back into
12 the heating chamber, wherein the steam delivery means
13 includes a steam pipe and a steam duct, and further
14 wherein the steam duct is located within the heating
15 chamber and introduces the generated steam into the steam
16 pipe.

1 **Claim 12 (Original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition
3 plate is engaged with an engaging portion provided in a
4 plurality of height positions on an internal wall surface
5 of the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 13 (Previously presented):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam
3 generating portion is provided along a wall surface on a

4 back side of a bottom face of the heating chamber.

1 **Claim 14 (Previously presented):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam
3 generating portion is constituted in such a manner that
4 the steam directly hits upon the thing to be heated.

1 **Claim 15 (Original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising high
3 frequency distributing means for distributing and
4 supplying a high frequency into the heating chamber.

5 **Claim 16 (Previously presented):** The high frequency
6 heating apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising
7 a control portion for controlling the high frequency
8 generating portion, the steam generating portion and the
9 preheating means,
10 the control portion being constituted to execute, in
11 this order, a preheating step of heating the heating
12 chamber by heat generation of the preheating means and a
13 main heating step of supplying at least one of a high
14 frequency generated from the high frequency generating
15 portion and steam supplied from the steam generating
16 portion to carry out a heating process over the thing to

17 be heated.

1 **Claim 17 (Previously presented):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising
3 a control portion for controlling the high frequency
4 generating portion, the steam generating portion and the
5 preheating means,
6 the control portion having an interrupt processing
7 function for supplying steam from the steam generating
8 portion into the heating chamber for a predetermined time
9 while the thing to be heated is heated.

1 **Claim 18 (Original):** The high frequency heating
2 apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a
3 steam supply switch for executing the interrupt processing
in an optional timing.

1 **Claim 19 (Previously presented):** A high frequency
2 heating apparatus for heating a thing to be heated
3 comprising:
4 a high frequency generating portion;
5 a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be
6 heated;
7 a steam generating portion for generating steam in

8 the heating chamber located in the lower back portion of
9 the heating chamber;
10 a feed water tank;
11 a feed water pipe connecting the feed water tank to
12 the steam generating portion where the feed water pipe
13 further comprises an intermediate portion; and,
14 a heater to heat the water in the intermediate
15 portion before the water enters the steam generating
16 portion.

1 **Claim 20 (Previously presented):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising
3 an evaporator pan having a detachable cover.

1 **Claim 21 (Previously presented):** The high frequency
2 heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam
3 generating portion is located only in the lower back
4 portion of the heating chamber.